

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 AGRE-00 /102 W
-----061600 110238Z /14

R 101324Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3036

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6102

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, JAN-APRIL 1978;

REF TEL AVIV 4947

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS PRELIMINARY
TOTALS FOR JANUARY-APRIL EXPORTS (IN MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS)

	JAN-APRIL 1977	JAN-APRIL 1978	PERCENT CHANGE JAN-APRIL78 FROM JAN-APRIL 77
TOTAL	941.4	1,262.0	PLUS 34.1
AGRICULTURAL	197.8	241.5	PLUS 22.1
CITRUS	123.2	132.4	PLUS 7.5
OTHER AGR.	74.6	109.1	PLUS 46.2

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INDUSTRIAL & OTHER	743.6	1,020.	PLUS 37.2
FOOD BEVERAGE, TOBACCO	46R	59.3	PLUS 27.8
TEXTILE, CLOTHING & LEATHER	68.7	77.3	PLUS 12.5
WOOD, PAPER, PRINTING MISCELLANEOUS	30.9	42.2	PLUS 36.6

MINES, QUARRIES,
NON-METALIC

MINERALS	25.1	29.3	PLUS 16.7
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CHEMICALS, RUBBER
& PLASTICS

	103.2	134.0	PLUS 29.8
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METALS MACHINERY
& ELECTRONICS

	140.9	227.7	PLUS 61.6
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POLISHED DIAMONDS (NET)	313.0	414.6	PLUS 41.1
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OTHER EXPORTS	15.4	9.1	MINUS 40.9
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INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS

ESCL. DIAMONDS	430.6	578.9	PLUS 34.4
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2. THE LARGE JUMP IN VALUE OF EXPORTS OF THE METALS, MACHINERY AND ELECTRONICS CATEGORY MAY BE DUE TO INCREASED EXPORTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY. THE VALUE OF DIAMOND EXPORTS CONTINUES TO BE ABOVE 1977'S LEVELS FOLLOWING A RUNUP OF RAW DIAMOND STOCKS IN LATE 1977 AND EARLY 1978.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM FOUR MONTHS DATA THAT THE GOI NATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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BUDGET ESTIMATES OF A CY 1978 MERCHANDISE EXPORT GAIN OF 22 PERCENT WILL BE EASILY EXCEEDED.

WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN UNUSUAL VARIATIONS IN DIAMOND TRADING, THE NON-DIAMOND INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS ARE RUNNING AT A RATE 34.4 PERCENT ABOVE 1977 LEVELS INSTEAD OF THE 19 PERCENT NATIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATE. THE DIAMOND SECTOR COULD PROVIDE FURTHER INCREASES IN EXPORTS EVEN ABOVE THE PRESENT RATES. BASED ON FOREIGN TRADE DATA, EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT THE VALUE OF RAW DIAMOND

STOCKS ARE STILL AT LEAST \$200 MILLION ABOVE NORMAL LEVELS. BASED ON CURRENT TRENDS, THE EMBASSY PROJECTS EXPORT INCREASE FOR CY 78 IN 30-35 PERCENT RANGE. NEVERTHELESS, THE MERCHANDISE TRADE BALANCE SHOULD SHOW LITTLE CHANGE FROM 1977 SINCE IMPORTS ARE ALSO RISING AT ABOVE THE PROJECTED RATE.

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